

3. (original) Preparation according to claim 2, characterized in that R is a hydrogen atom or a residue OR¹, R¹ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₈ alkyl residue and A and B are both hydrogen atoms.

4. (original) Preparation according to claim 1, characterized in that phytanic acid is concerned.

5. (currently amended) Preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the preparation is a cosmetic preparation and the carrier is a cosmetically compatible carrier.

6. (currently amended) Preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the preparation contains another active substance, selected from caffeine, flavones and isoflavones.

7. (currently amended) Preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that a hair care product is concerned.

8. (original) Preparation according to claim 7, characterized in that a shampoo or a deep conditioner is concerned.

9. (currently amended) Preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the preparation is a medicament and the carrier is a pharmaceutically compatible carrier.

10. (currently amended) Use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, for the production of a medicament or cosmetic preparation to be administered topically to prevent and/or treat cellulite, subcutaneous fat pads, skin aging, conditions caused by a damaged or injured skin barrier, for treating hair and scalp, for treating and actively preventing dry skin and for strengthening the barrier function of the skin as well as for treating, caring for and preventing sensitive skin and/or for treating and preventing the symptoms of a negative change in the physiological homeostasis of the healthy skin, in particular inadequate, sensitive or hypoactive skin conditions or inadequate, sensitive or hypoactive conditions of skin appendages, inflammatory skin conditions as well as the atopic eczema, the

polymorphous photodermatitis, psoriasis, vitiligo, sensitive, itching or irritated skin, changes in the normal lipid peroxidation, a change in the ceramide, lipid and energy metabolisms of the healthy skin, a change in the physiological transepidermal water loss, a reduction of the skin hydration and decrease of the moisture content of the skin, a change in the natural moisturizing factor content, a reduction of the cell-to-cell communication, deficiency symptoms of the intracellular DNA synthesis, DNA damage and reduction of endogenous DNA repair mechanisms, activation of metalloproteinases and/or other proteases or inhibition of the corresponding endogenous DNA repair mechanisms and deviations from the normal post-translational modification of connective tissue constituents.

11. (original) Use according to claim 10, wherein the medicament or cosmetic preparation is a preparation for treating or preventing cellulite and/or subcutaneous fat pads.

12. (original) Use according to claim 10, wherein the medicament or the cosmetic preparation is a preparation for treating or preventing greasy hair and/or the formation of dandruff.

13. (currently amended) Use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, for treating and preventing cellulite, subcutaneous fat pads, skin aging, conditions caused by a damaged or injured skin barrier, for treating hair and scalp, for treating and actively preventing dry skin and for strengthening the barrier function of the skin, and for treating, caring for and preventing sensitive skin and/or for treating and preventing the symptoms of a negative change in the physiological homeostasis of the healthy skin, in particular inadequate, sensitive or hypoactive skin conditions or inadequate, sensitive or hypoactive conditions of skin appendages, inflammatory skin conditions and the atypical eczema, of polymorphous photodermatitis, psoriasis, vitiligo, sensitive, itching or irritated skin, changes in the normal lipid peroxidation, a change in the ceramide, lipid and energy metabolism of the healthy skin, a change in the physiological transepidermal water loss, a reduction of the skin hydration and decrease of the moisture content of the skin, a change in the natural

moisturizing factor content, a reduction of the cell-to-cell communication, deficiency symptoms of the intracellular DNA synthesis, DNA damage and reduction of endogenous DNA repair mechanisms, activation of metalloproteinases and/or other proteases or inhibition of the corresponding endogenous DNA repair mechanisms and deviations of the normal post-translational modifications of connective tissue components, the treatments being cosmetic treatments.

14. (original) Use according to claim 13 for treating and preventing cellulite and/or subcutaneous fat pads.

15. (original) Use according to claim 13 for treating and preventing greasy hair and/or dandruff formation.

16. (original) Compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, wherein residue R represents OR¹ and R¹ is an n-propyl or a C₄-C₂₂ alkyl residue.